



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USI Physics Professor Joins Higher Ed Commission

GARY, IND. – University of Southern Indiana professor Kent Scheller will bring his teaching expertise and first-hand experience supporting student success to his new role as the faculty representative of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Recently appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels, Scheller attended his first Commission meeting today on the Indiana University Northwest campus in Gary.

“We are extremely pleased to benefit from Kent’s wealth of knowledge and expertise as the Commission works together to promote policies and practices that promote academic quality and degree completion for Hoosier students,” said Ken Sendelweck, Chair of the Commission.

Scheller is an Associate Professor of Physics at the University of Southern Indiana, where he is responsible for teaching all levels in the physics curriculum. His numerous on-campus service efforts include: University Faculty Affairs Committee, University Strategic Planning Committee, University Core Curriculum Committee and a third year serving as Vice Chair of the University Faculty Senate. Scheller received a B.S. in Physics from the University of Evansville, and both a M.S. in Physics and Ph.D. in Nuclear Astrophysics from the University of Notre Dame.

Scheller is adamant about the need for Indiana students to succeed in the classroom and beyond, a perspective he will bring as a member of the Commission’s Academic Affairs committee.

“I want every student in Indiana to have not only the opportunity but also the preparation to be successful in our universities,” said Scheller. “Having the opportunity to attend college doesn’t ensure success. We need to prepare our students.”

Scheller believes students need to know from their first day on campus exactly what they need to do to earn a degree. Some students think they want to major in physics but do not understand they need to do well in trigonometry and algebra first, he said.

Scheller's off-campus community service includes President of the South Gibson School Board of Trustees, Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee for the South Gibson School Corporation, and President of the Sts. Peter and Paul School Board of Trustees. He received the Guthrie May Outstanding Senior Award in 1988 from the University of Evansville, Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award in 1991 from the University of Notre Dame, Distinguished Service Award in 2003 from the Gibson County Kiwanis, and the H. Lee Cooper University Core Teaching Award in 2007.

The Commission includes fourteen members, twelve of whom are appointed by the governor. The Commission is a coordinating agency that works closely with Indiana’s public and independent colleges.